

A NEW COLOMBIAN SPECIES OF BESLERIA (GESNERIACEAE)

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The study of an historic specimen collected in 1837 by George W. Barclay during the voyage of H.M.S. Sulphur has revealed a new species of Besleria. In The botany of the voyage of H.M.S. Sulphur (1844-46), George Bentham dealt with six species of Gesneriaceae from tropical America. This specimen was part of a residue left unnamed by Bentham, perhaps because of the paucity of available material. In the past 35 years many collections of an unidentified Besleria have been made from the Pacific slope of the Cordillera Occidental in Colombia which apparently belong to the same species collected by Barclay on the island of Gorgona.

BESLERIA BARCLAYI L. Skog, sp. nov.

Herba erecta vel frutex ad 2 m altus, sparse ramosa. Internodia 1.6-11.6 cm longa et 0.3-1.0 cm diam., viridia vel ferruginea, hispida vel glabrescentia. Folia opposita, subaequalia; petiolus sulcatus, 0.2-2.3 cm longus, 2-3 mm latus, hispidus, ferrugineus; lamina rotunda, elliptica, ovata, obovata vel oblanceolata, 12.6-30.2 cm longa, 6.4-15.6 cm lata, membranacea, basi cuneata, in petiolum decurrens, margine integra et ciliata trichomatibus ferrugineis, apice acuminata vel obtusa, supra atrovirens sparsim strigosa, infra pallide viridia secus venam mediam hispida, inter venas sparsim strigosa. Inflorescentiae axillares, floribus 1-4, aggregatis; pedunculus brevissimus 0.5-2.0 mm longus; pedicellus 0.4-1.7 cm longus et ca 1 mm diam., hispidus; bractae non manifestae. Calycis tubus globosus, 2-8 mm longus et 5-8 mm diam., flavovirens vel ferrugineus; lobi 5, lanceolatus-ovati, 0.8-1.2 cm longi et 3-7 mm lati ad basim, extus hispidi, intus glabri, margine integro-suberosi, apice obtusi vel acuti. Corollae tubus subventricosus, 1.3-1.5 cm longus, ad basim parum gibbosus 3-5 mm latus, ad medium et faucem 5-7 mm latus, aurantiacus aut ruber, extus glaber aut glandulosus rare ad basim pubescens, intus glandulosus; limbus 5-lobatus, lobis aequalibus, orbicularibus, erectis vel porrectis, 2-4 mm longis et 2.5-4.0 mm latis, glabris, margine integris. Stamina 4, filamentis curvis, ad basim tubum corollae per 3-4 mm adnatis, 6-8 mm longis, basi latioribus, glabris; antherae adhaerentes, ca 2.0 mm longae et 2.5 mm latae. Ovarium globosum vel oblongum, 3-4 mm longum et 2-3 mm latum, glabrum; stylus ca 7 mm longus, basi sparsim puberulus, apice glaber; stigma stomatomorphum; discus annularis, ca 1 mm crassus,

glaber. Bacca globosa, 5-8 mm longa et 5-6 mm diam., ferruginea; semina numerosa, globosa, ca 0.25 mm diam., striata.

Type: J. Cuatrecasas & L. Willard 26037 (holotype US, 2402107), collected at Quebrada de López, Pacific Coast, Río Calima, Valle, Colombia, elev. 20-40 m, 23 September 1961. "Herb 1 m; erect; leaves velvety green above; light green beneath; calyx yellowish reddish; corolla bright orange."

Other specimens examined: Colombia: Chocó: E. P. Killip & H. García 33512 (US, 1770449), from Bahía Solano, dense forest along Quebrada Jellita, elev. 50-100 m, 22 February 1939; E. P. Killip 35106 (US, 1771869), from dense forest near junction of Río Condoto and Río San Juan, elev. 100-150 m, 20 April 1939; E. P. Killip 35309 (US, 1772043), from Corcovada Region, upper Río San Juan, ridge along Yeracú Valley, 200-275 m, 24-25 April 1939. Valle: E. P. Killip & H. García 33313 (US, 1770266), from dense forest near highway bridge over Río Dagua, about 20 kilometers east of Buenaventura, elev. ca 40 m, 15 February 1939. Cauca: G. W. Barclay 933 (BM, 2 sheets), Island of Gorgona, 11th & 14th January 1837. Nariño: J. Ewan 16848 (US, 2106305, US, 2652945), from Pambana, between Río Pimbi and Río Cuembí, 3 February 1945. Locality unknown: J. J. Triana s n (US, 1480606), from "N. Grenada".

Of the approximately 150 described species of Besleria, B. barclayi is perhaps most closely related to B. aggregata (Mart.) Hanst. Separated geographically from Besleria barclayi by the Cordillera, B. aggregata is one of the more widely distributed species of Besleria, and is known from Caquetá and Putumayo on the east slope of the Cordillera Oriental in Colombia to Amazonas, Brazil, and south to central Peru. Besleria aggregata differs from B. barclayi in having petioles more than 3 cm long, corollas over 2 cm long with a pilose ring within at the insertion of the filaments and lobes of the limb long ciliate, the disk annular but enlarged posteriorly as a broad gland, and a glabrous style.